State	Total Price Payable for cane purchased during 1998-99 upto 30.9.99	Cane Price paid upto 30-9-99	Balance Cane Price payable as on 30-9-99
North Maharashtra	40898.09	40076.07	822.02
Central Maharashtra	115620.66	115131.79	488.87
Total Maharashtra	268189.22	266832.84	1356.38
North Bihar	18037.78	16939.57	1098.21
South Bihar	—	—	—
Total Bihar	18037.78	16939.57	1098.21
Assam	284.41	284.41	—
Andhra Pradesh	64857.98	62432.66	2425.32
Karnataka	73982.56	71451.84	2530.72
Tamil Nadu	107321.54	102305.85	5015.69
Kerala	452.35	452.35	—
Orissa	4808.02	4765.72	42.30
West Bengal	526.81	523.98	2.83
Nagaland	—	—	—
Pondicherry	3636.97	3540.72	96.25
Goa	1502.39	1502.39	-
All India	965684.68	936820.16	28864.52

Prices of Essential Commodities under PDS

†1685. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of the items to be distributed through Public Distribution System are likely to be increased heavily by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would take care of the people living below the poverty line while doing so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(c) The quantity of wheat or rice being allocated to BPL families will be raised from 10 Kgs. to 20 Kgs. per month, and the Central Issue Prices will be fixed at 50% of the economic cost of these items, as against 30% which they arc

†Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.

paying now. The APL population will pay 100% of the economic cost of foodgrains as against 77% and 81% being paid now for rice and wheat respectively. These measures will come into effect from 1.4.2000. The Government has also decided to increase the prices of sugar from Rs. 12.00 per Kg. to Rs. 13.00 per Kg. w.e.f. 1.3.2000. Sugar will now be distributed under the PDS to the population who are not Income Tax Assesses. There is no increase in prices of Kerosene to be distributed under PDS.

(c) For wheat & rice, the BPL families will have a net saving in their family food budget, since the monthly quota will be raised from 10 Kgs. to 20 Kgs. with effect from 1.4.2000. In case of sugar, the average per head, per month quota of levy sugar would now be 454 grams as against 375 grams before 1.1.2000. The average availability of sugar under PDS would increase by 79 grams per head, per month. Hence, in case of sugar, the impact on BPL will be nominal.

Increase in PDS Quota of States

1686. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Slate Governments have requested the Union Government to increase the quota for Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last one year and the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Demand for the Public Distribution System (PDS) commodities, which are subsidised, is generally higher than the allocations made by the Government of India and requests are received from the States/Union Territories from time to time for enhancing their allotments.

Foodgrains:

Issue of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) is dependent on the quantum of procured foodgrains. Out of the total quantum available in addition to issue under PDS. buffer stocks at prescribed norms have also to be maintained and certain commitments like issue of foodgrains